

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML
APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER
S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 116088 TOSEC 010017

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH KRAFT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. I TALKED WITH JOE THIS MORNING AND WENT OVER IN DETAIL THE MESSAGE YOU HAD ASKED THROUGH SCOWCROFT BE PASSED TO HIM ON THE B-52'S. HE ACCEPTED THE POINTS I MADE AND, WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THE SOURCE OF HIS EARLIER INFORMATION, CONCEDED THAT IT (THE SOURCE) WAS PROBABLY PREJUDICED. I THINK WE HAVE HEARD THE END OF THIS MATTER FROM KRAFT.

2. I ALSO POINTED OUT TO JOE THAT GENE ROSTOW HAD BEEN SCHEDULED WITH THE PRESIDENT TWICE BEFORE HE ACTUALLY GOT IN AND THAT THIS COULD NOT REPEAT NOT THEREFORE HAVE BEEN RELATED TO ANYTHING SCRANTON MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE SAID TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. JOE WAS IN GOOD HUMOR TODAY AND QUITE RESPONSIVE TO MY BLANDISHMENTS. HE DID, HOWEVER, HAVE ONE DISQUIETING COMMENT. HE SAYS THAT AFTER THE INTERVIEW WITH THE SHAH ON "MEET THE PRESS" YESTERDAY, HE TALKED WITH THE LATTER
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FOR 10-15 MINUTES. AT ONE POINT JOE SAID TO THE SHAH,

"YOU MEAN THAT YOU BELIEVE AS A RESULT OF YOUR VISIT HERE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO LIVE WITH THE PRICE OF OIL?" THE SHAH, ACCORDING TO KRAFT, REPLIED, "NOT ONLY

LIVE WITH THE PRICE OF OIL BUT ACCEPT AN INCREASE." I AM AFRAID THAT JOE IS GOING TO DO AN ARTICLE ABOUT HOW BADLY WE HANDLED THE SHAH, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE OIL PRICE PROBLEM.

4. SINCE I KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THE SHAH'S VISIT, ALL I WAS ABLE TO SAY TO JOE WAS THAT I WAS SURE THE &H', --- --- S UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AS I KNEW HOW STRONGLY YOU AND THE PRESIDENT FELT THAT FURTHER OIL PRICE INCREASES WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE ECONOMY, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTFR-NATIONAL. IS THERE ANYTHING MORE I CAN TELL JOP?

5. JOE ALSO ASKED IF I WOULD PURSUE WITH YOU THE QUESTION OF HIS GOING TO CHINA IN ADVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HE ALLUDED TO "SOME FAST FOOTWORK" THAT TOOK PLACE BPFSIT. NIXON'S LAST TRIP TO CHINA AND SAID THAT ONLY YOU KNEW HOW PERMISSION FOR KRAFT TO GO HAD FINALLY BEEN ARRANGFD JOE'S HOPE IS THAT HE CAN EITHER GO WITH YOU ON THE PRE-LIMINARY VISIT AND THEN REMAIN UNTIL FORD ARRIVES, OR GO ON HIS OWN BEFORE FORD GOES, ONCE AGAIN REMAINING TN CHINA THROUGHOUT THE FORD VISIT ITSELF. DO YOU HAVE ANY GUIDANCE ON WHAT I SHOULD DO, IF ANYTHING, TO ASSIST JOP IN GETTING PERMISSION FROM THE CHINESE? INGERSOLL

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